THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Government of Maharashtra has informed that it is not true to say that Mithi river flow has closed down. Available water way in Mithi river was inadequate to cater to the unprecedented heavy rainfall recorded on 26th July 2005 to the tune of 944 mm. in 24 hours with peak rain fall intensity of 140 mm. per hour.

(b) The State Government has further informed that in some stretches, the storm water carrying capacity of Mithi river is reduced due to encroachments.

(c) The land underneath and adjoining all natural water courses belongs to the State Government. Hence Collector (MSD) takes joint action along with Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (M.C.G.M.) for the removal of encroachments within and on the bank of Mithi river and such actions are taken from time to time. The Government of Maharashtra has set up the Mithi river Development Authority for studying the extent to which the river is to be widened and deepened to carry the storm water discharge.

Linking of Rivers

†728. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that an ambitious plan of linking rivers of the country at the level of Central Government is still under consideration;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in case of Madhya Pradesh proposal of giving priority to two projects in the first phase is under consideration;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Central Government on the plan after the one year since the Government of Madhya Pradesh accorded their approval for the implementation of these both projects;

(d) the reasons for delay in getting the work of these projects started; and

(e) the time by when the work of these two projects is likely to be started?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Based on various studies of National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development proposed in 1980 envisaging interbasin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links for preparing Feasibility Reports (FRs). NWDA has completed feasibility reports for 14 links under Peninsular Rivers Development Component and two links under Himalayan Rivers Development Component.

(b) to (e) Two links projects under Peninsular Component viz. (i) Ken-Betwa involving the States of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh and (ii) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal involving the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh were taken up as priority links. A tripartite agreement was signed among Government of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh on 25.8.2005 for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Ken-Betwa link. The work on completion of Ken-Betwa link project is dependent on signing of further agreements between the States as envisaged in Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and various statutory clearances after the completion of DPR. The taking up of DPR of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link is dependent on how soon the Government of Rajasthan conveys its consent in this regard.

World Bank Report on Water Development and Management

729. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed a recent report of the World Bank, title: India's Water Economy Bracing for Turbulent Future, highlighting *inter-alia* that the current water development and management system in India is not sustainable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the major findings/observations contained in the report and specific steps taken/proposed to be taken for improved water management/conservation practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Mr. John Briscoe